THE PENNY MAGAZINE

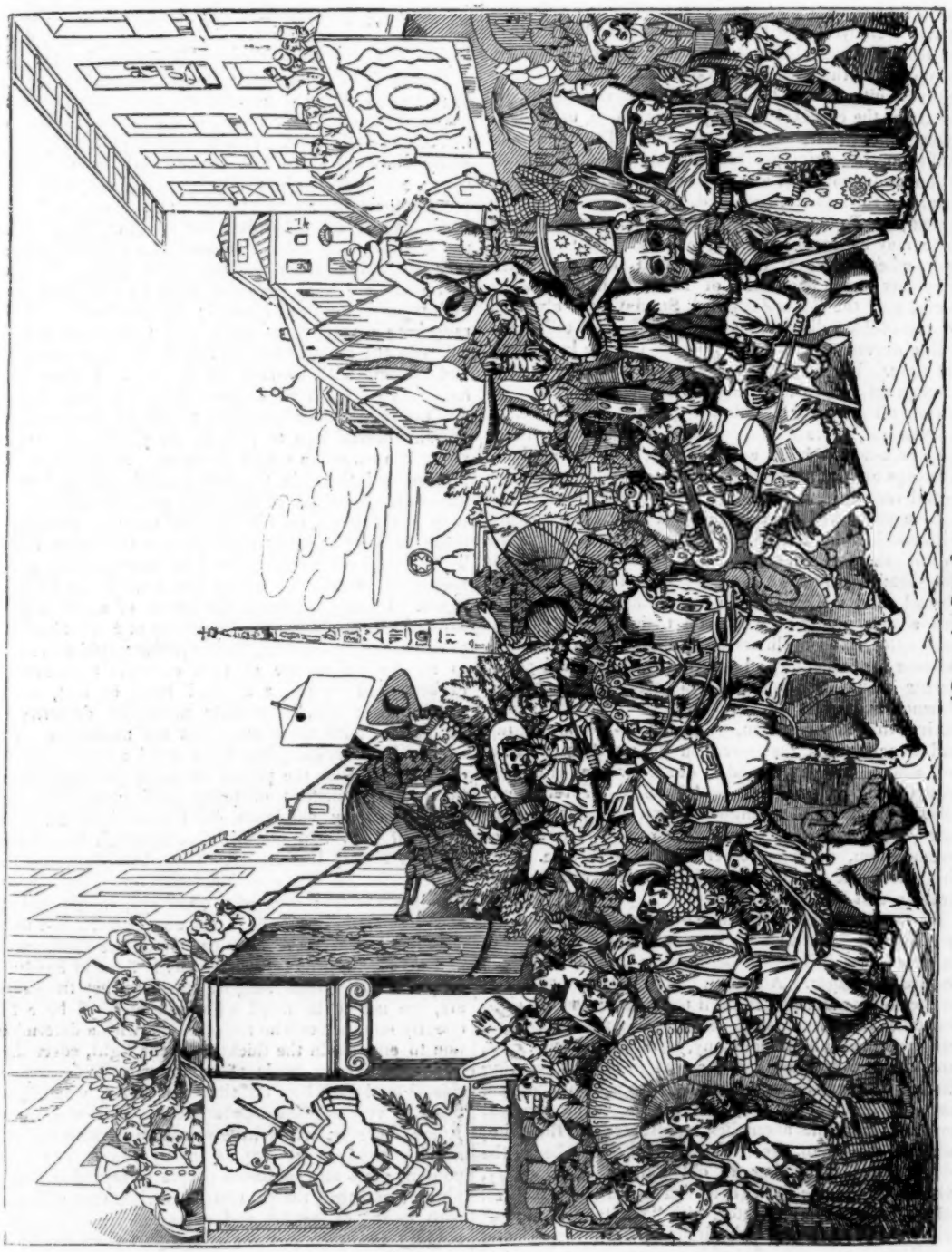
OF THE

Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

189.] PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY. [MARCH 14, 1835.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF ITALIAN CARNEVALS.

[From a Correspondent.]



[Carneval at Rome.]

"This feast is named the Carneval, which, being Interpreted, implies "farewell to flesh."

BYRON.

As I write these lines, the carneval is just expiring; for Ash Wednesday is at hand, when all its sports and frolics give way to the dullness and fasting of Lent. I will endeavour to set down some of my recollections of that gay season in Italy,—an easy task, in which I shall be assisted by the striking print before me, that happily condenses some of the most curious features of carneval out of doors. The Egyptian obelisk that rises dimly in the back-ground of the picture, and whose austere antiquity contrasts poetically with the living bustle, uproar, and enjoyment of the principal scene, shows that it is a Roman carneval that the artist represents. With the exception of the obelisk, however, and some difference in the architecture of the houses, the engraving equally illustrates the carneval of Naples, or Milan, or Venice, or any other of the large Italian cities. The crowd and confusion, the principal masquerade characters, their action and grouping, are common to all Italian carnevals on their *good days;* and, as these saturnalia are limited, at Rome, to eight days, every carneval-day there may be considered a good one. In the rest of Italy, where carneval continues from the feast of the Epiphany to the beginning of Lent, lasting five or six weeks, only the Thursdays and Sundays are observed for out-of-door displays; and these days are either not well observed at the beginning, or become languid at the close. Within doors, indeed, particularly at Naples a few years ago, carneval used to be kept up with spirit during all its long legitimate period;—there being, every night, private masquerades, or masquerades at the opera-house, balls and suppers, and all kinds of feastings and mummeries in uninterrupted succession:—and very hard work it was to go through them all! I have supported what is called a "London season" with considerably less loss of health and flesh. As soon as this riot of pleasure was over, the doctors, with their gold-headed canes, were always seen more constantly abroad, and walking much faster than usual. They had always plenty of works on their hands, being as busy *after* it as milliners and tailors, cooks and confectioners, fiddlers, and dancing-masters, had been *during* carneval. Even in a physical sense, the abstinence and quiet of Lent were indispensable: and during that sober season, when there were no feasting and dancing, and the opera, on the nights in which it was allowed to open, closed at the sober hour of eleven, without any ballet, people had time to recover themselves; although there annually occurred a few unlucky cases where the long revelling had sown the seeds of consumption, or some other incurable disease. But this was carneval in-doors. Let us return to our engraving and the streets of Rome.

In the afternoon, about three o'clock, the Corso begins gradually to fill with people,—some masked, and some in their usual holiday-dresses,—some on foot and some in hired carriages. About an hour later, the equipages of the nobility and gentry swell the crowd; and the open balconies and windows of every house in that long street are crammed full of company, who, for the most part, are not mere spectators, but actors in the ever-varying farce. The carriages and the horses are, for the most part, decked out in a very fine or a very capricious manner; and the anomalies represented in the print, where a coachman, dressed as a Spanish cavalier of the olden times, is driving an old Tabellone, or notary, with a huge wine-flask (extended towards a punch on stilts), and a Roman doctor, with "spectacles on nose," while a small-grown punch climbs up the side steps, and a full-grown punchinello, with a squeaking trumpet to his lips, and a sturdy, turbaned Moor, with a banner in his hand, act as footmen,—are such amusing contrasts as continually occur, and give the best parts of the drollery to the scene. As these carriages pass through the crowd, at a slow stately pace, those within them address or gesticulate to their friends at the balconies of the houses,—or in other carriages,—or in the street, on foot, and generally pelt them with sugar-plums. This fire is returned by the more stationary actors: and, if you look to the left of the picture, you will see a gentleman and a lady, with uplifted hands, full of sugar-plums, taking aim; and in another balcony, to the right, two gentlemen pelting with much vigour. The greatest part of the fun, after the hodge-podge of costume, lies in this sugar-plum warfare; for what with the noise of French horns and drums, cow-horns and guitars, fifes, fiddles, tambourines, and penny trumpets, and the din of thousands of voices,—the masked all squeaking in a conventional carneval falsetto, and the unmasked roaring to the top of their lungs,—no delicate passages of wit can be well heard. It is a point of gallantry, when ladies are fired at, to mix choice bon-bons and sweetmeats, wrapped up in pretty bits of paper, with nice poesies between, about "core" and "amore;" and when people do not mind the expense, they make use only of good eatable sugar-plums with the kernels of sweet almonds and caraway-seeds inside. Wherever these are most scattered there do the little boys and ragamuffins most abound; for the Italians generally have a very sweet tooth, and these poor fellows will run the most imminent risk to fill their stomachs and pockets with *confetti da signore**. I have seen hundreds of them at a time down on their knees, and even crawling among the wheels of the carriages and the horses' legs to pick up the plums, which they think it a sin and a shame to waste. Pray turn to the picture, and there, in the fore-ground, you will see a queer little specimen of the rising generation of Rome, with a night-cap on his head in the very position I mean, picking up the confetti close to the horses' hoofs. The animals seem spirited, and he may probably get a kick, but that will not hinder him from trying his luck again. I verily believe if the gorge of a *tête-de-pont* bristled with cannon, or the approach of a redoubt, were paved with sugar-plums, these urchins would march up to it. In the course of their carneval operations a broken head or rib, a crushed hand or foot, sometimes occur; but, from their wonderful dexterity, I should not think these casualties are numerous. The worst of this sugar-plum fight (and a pretty general evil it is) is, that the poorer or more parsimonious of the revellers, instead of using good plums that cost money, employ villainous hard make-believes, composed of flour and plaster-of-paris, which hurt where they hit almost like stones. I speak feelingly on this subject, for on one occasion, when embarked in the "ship of fools," I received a black-eye, to say nothing of a bleeding-nose; and, in my own party, I had more than one brother in misfortune. Even the good, sweet, and *dear* confetti, when thrown with force in handfuls, or propelled through long tin tubes, as they frequently are, are not to be faced with impunity. I have frequently seen heroes who took the field with a determination to engage in the thickest of the fight, cover their faces with visors made of netted wire, and carry tin shields and bucklers on their left arms, which gave them a very warlike appearance. This warfare at Rome, however, was spiritless, compared with the carneval campaigns at Naples in my time. The Neapolitans are a magnanimous people in regard to sugar-plums; and then the population is triple that of Rome, with gentry of wealth and substance; and a secular nobility can take a more active part than would be seemly in the Abati, Monsignori, Cardinali, and the

* Gentlemanly sugar-plums

noblesse of the Church at Rome. I should think that for one pound of confetti at Rome ten are expended at Naples. I have seen the streets at night, after a good field-day, and when all the Neapolitans had betaken themselves to the theatres or other in-door amusements, look as if it had snowed; for, spite of the activity of the young plum-gatherers, the far greater part of the good confetti, and all the flour-and-plaster ones, are trodden and pounded under the feet of the multitude, and ground by the horses' hoofs and carriage-wheels into a fine snow-white powder. The amount of the fun and spirit of the afternoon may be calculated by the extent of the confetti-dust in the evening. I remember walking down Toledo one carneval night with the old Duca di ——, who had an energetic way of expressing himself, which is far from uncommon among his countrymen. From the Studj to the Palazzo Real, or from one end of that mile-long street to the other, the ground was sugared, floured, and plastered all over. "Corpo di Bacco!" cried the Duca, "c' è stato quest' oggi un consumo di confetti magnifico! Questo nio si chiama carnevale!"—or, "By the body of Bacchus! there has been a magnificent consumption of sugar-plums to-day! Now this is what I call a carneval!"

When I was first at Naples, the greatest consumer of confetti in this way was old King Ferdinand, who has been represented by cotemporary historians as a sanguinary tyrant; but was, in fact, was only a very ignorant, very indolent, and misled king, and by nature a very hearty, jovial buffoon, and very good-natured in the main. In my mind's eye I still see the old man with his plain grey coat and pantaloons, his white hanging hair, and broad-brimmed Quaker-looking hat, just as I used to see him during the carnevals of 1817 and 1818, when he went regularly to the house of the Princess Partanna (his wife by a left-handed marriage), which was conveniently situated midway in the Toledo on the left-hand side of that street as you go up from the royal palace. There he used to station himself in the spacious balcony, with a few of his favourites in his rear, and with a sackfull of sugar-plums on either side of him, the mouths of the sacks being open and the edges folded over, like sample corn-sacks in our market-places; and there he used to pelt with a profusion that delighted the hearts of all the lazaroncelli*, for his majesty's confetti were of the right sort. His own great delight was when any of his solemn-looking old courtiers, or gouty, powder-headed generals, passed in their carriages beneath, or presented themselves at balconies anywhere within reach, to pelt them until they could not see, and were obliged to run away, or hide their hands and faces between their cocked hats and their knees. And then as he made any capital hit, (and, to do his majesty justice, he was a capital shot both with fowling-piece and sugar-plums,) he would roar out,—"O' vì là, ce' l'aggio dato! l'aggio suonato!"—(Only look there! I have given it him! I have served him out!) and then how he would laugh! not all the din of Toledo on a carneval day could drown his noise. Some three or four years after, when he went to that almost equally farcical affair, the Congress of Verona, as he happened to be the oldest of those assembled there, it was the fashion to call him the "Nestor of the kings," which, considering his enormous and avowed ignorance, almost looked like quizzing him. But, though he had not the most wisdom, Ferdinand had certainly the loudest laugh and voice of any sovereign (or subject either) in Christendom. I must also mention as a fact honourable to the memory of Ferdinand, that in the sugar-plum warfare he did not shelter himself behind his prerogative and divine right as king, but as he pelted his subjects and others, so he permitted them to pelt him, and stood their fire with much good humour, though I have sometimes seen his nose, which was prominent and of extraordinary size, suffer for it. Some of the English, who throng in Naples during such seasons, occasionally carried the joke too far, pelting his majesty with all their might, and making downright horse-play of it; and once, I remember, that a party of this sort, mounted on a high car which brought them near to a level with him, fairly, or rather foully, drove the old man away from the balcony before he had finished one sack of his confetti. These high cars or vans are very striking objects in carneval processions both at Naples and Rome, as in other Italian cities. You must fancy a machine something like the late Mr. Hunt's blacking-van, but still longer in the body and higher on the wheels. There are many such in carneval countries. Upon the body of these machines it is customary to build upper works, which represent a tower or fortress with battlements and loop-holes, a ship with masts, sails, and flowing colours, or the like; and as all this is dragged slowly along by six long-tailed horses, or an equal number of oxen, the effect is very natural and imposing, particularly if you consider that towers move and ships go upon dry land. From my own experience I should feel inclined to say that a ship is the best form in which to rig out these cars. I remember one which the city of Naples cannot yet have forgotten. To form its keel two cars were spliced together lengthwise,—and from the top of the cars to the level of the decks was, if any thing, higher than one of our ten-gun brigs;—from the line which represented water-mark there hung all round canvass painted green, which trailed to the ground, concealing cars and car-wheels, and looking for all the world like sea-water. The crew of this carneval man-of-war were all properly equipped in tarred-straw hats, blue jackets, checked shirts, loose black-silk handkerchiefs, and white-duck trousers. There was a band of music on the quarter-deck, and iced punch and other refreshments; and forwards, or in the bow of the vessel, four punchinellos ate long macaroni to music. As the vessel sailed up Toledo, the sailors shook out the colours and handed the sails to the sound of the boatswain's whistle; and then they fought the ship according to the word of command, pouring out on both sides larboard and starboard, and doing such execution with the sugar-plums as never was known, for they were on a level with the first-floor balconies and could rake them all. As the manœuvres were managed by some of our frolicsome midshipmen, they were very seamanlike, but I am sorry to add, they fired with such violence that they broke a good many panes of glass all along Toledo.

Punches and harlequins, which are seen in the picture, are the most frequent figures in all Italian carnevals; but harlequin, to be seen in perfection, ought to be seen and *heard* at Venice; where, by the way, he is no more like the frisking, dancing, jumping, non-entity of our theatres, than night is like day, or wit like posture-making; and as for punch—dear, droll Policinello! he is to be found in perfection nowhere save in his own land, Naples!—in every other part of Italy he is out of his element, and is like a foreigner speaking a foreign language he does not very well understand.

There is a celebrated farce often played in the plebeian theatre of San Carlino at Naples, (where I have laughed more than ever I did in any other theatre, and perhaps more heartily than I shall ever laugh again,) called "Le Novanta-nove Disgrazie di Policinello," or, the Ninety-nine Misfortunes of Punch. In the last carneval but one I saw at that city, a distinguished amateur punch got up an admirable procession. He

* Though the term no longer applies to any extent, they call the poor classes in Naples *Lazaroni*, or Lazarusses. Lazaroncelli is the diminutive, meaning young, or little Lazarusses.

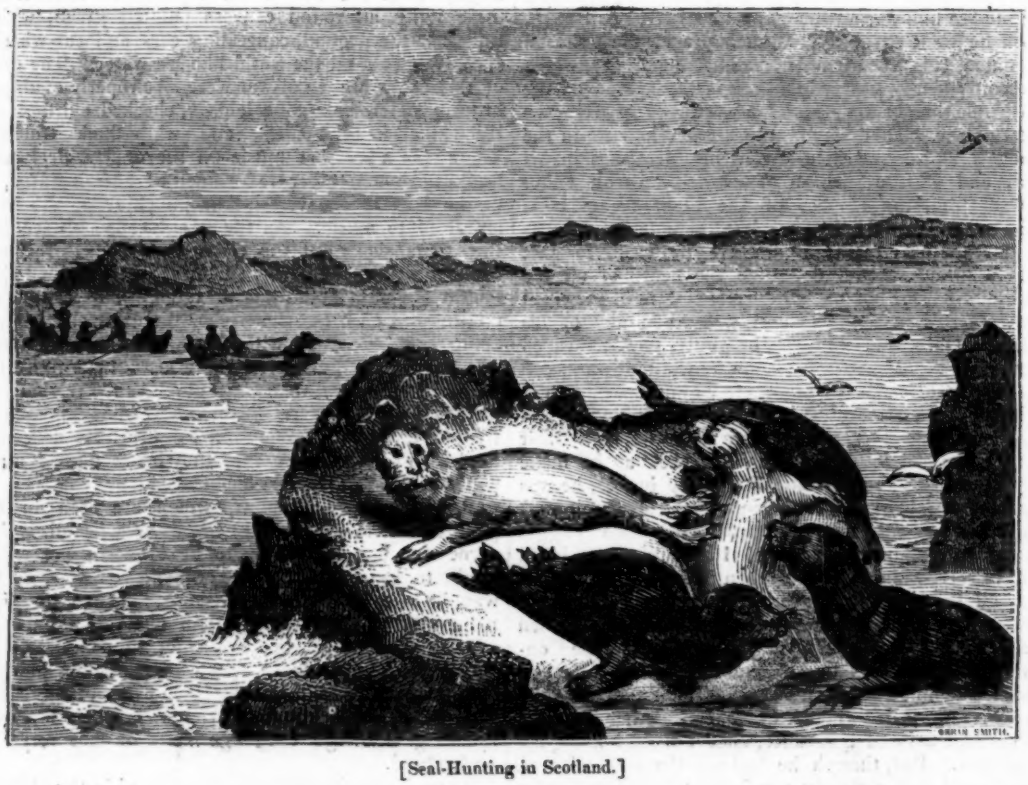
walked along Toledo with Mrs. Policinello at his right hand, and ninety-eight young Policinellos, of both genders, and all possible sizes, followed in his wake, and "ever as he went" he smote his forehead and shouted "Ecco quà le vere novanta-nove disgrazie di Policinello" (Here are the true ninety-nine misfortunes of Punch!)—and the joints of his tail that were spread out in almost interminable length kept crying aloud, "Give us to eat, papa, for we are dying of hunger, and all true children of papa Punch!" Talking of tails reminds me that devils are very common *figuranti* in Italian carnevals, and there is no getting up a good devil without a tail, which is an appendage difficult to manage in a crowd, where people will keep tugging at it. An ingenious friend of mine, however, got over this difficulty by stuffing his tail with pins and needles arranged in *cheveaux-de-frise* fashion, which made it a tail difficult to handle.

I remember nothing particular about the Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Romans, Hindoos, and the rest, which characters are, externally, pretty much like what we see in our own masked balls. But only conceive the difference between tens (or perhaps only units) and hundreds; between a formal affair got up in a ball-room, within four walls, and a popular general out-pouring in the streets and public places, and under the pure enlivening atmosphere and broad day-light of Southern Italy, with thousands upon thousands of the neighbouring peasantry pouring into the city to enjoy the scene, and add to its variety with their different and in general picturesque or grotesque costumes. The last-named part of the great picture always struck me as the pleasantest.

During my time in Italy, which extended, with some short periods of absence, from 1816 to 1826, I thought I discerned a gradual decline in the spirit of carnevals, which will probably go out altogether, and be forgotten of men. As a truly popular amusement—as a circumstance and season which brought people of all classes together, and put them, for the time being, on the same footing,—I should almost regret such a sober consummation. My regret may be the more excusable, as I never saw the license allowed seriously abused, or fun and frolic convert themselves into riot and shameful excess. (I mean, as far as the popular body was concerned.)

One of the principal amusements of the Roman carneval is the horse-racing; but that I have seen correctly described in a former Number [102] of the 'Penny Magazine.' My recollections of these matters would carry me a long way farther, but I have already occupied too much room; and, after all, an attentive examination of the engraving will give a better notion of out-door carneval doings than I could give in many pages.

SEAL-HUNTING.

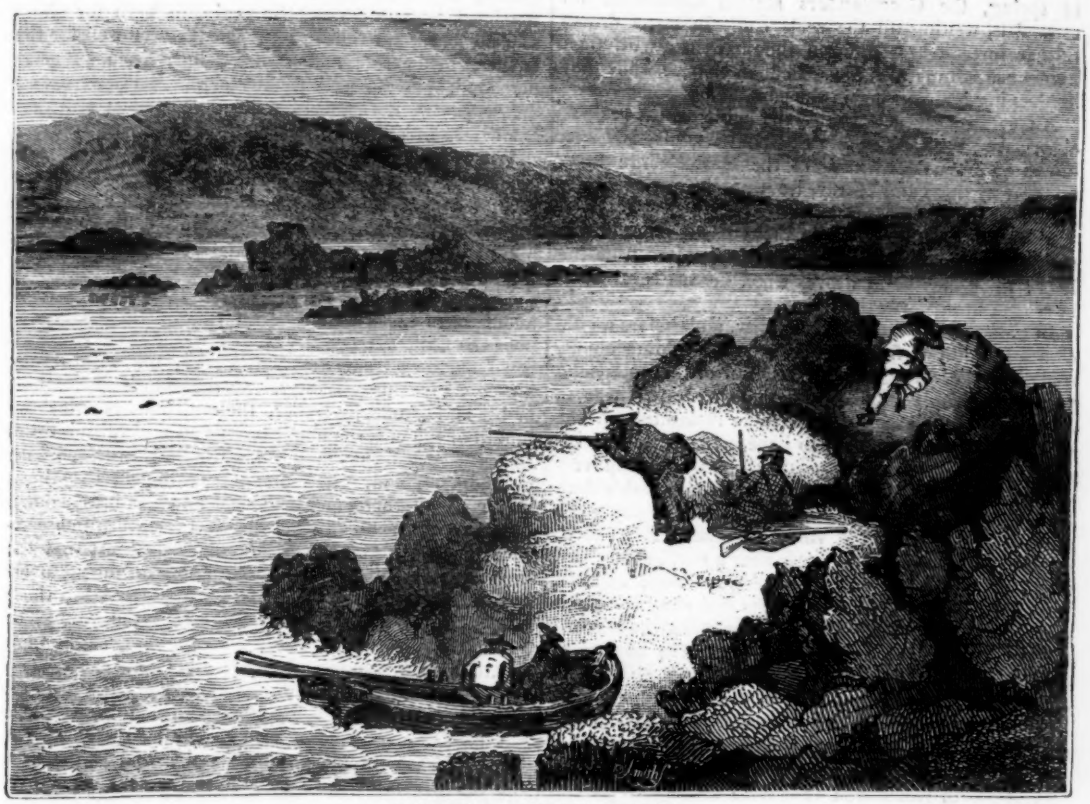


[Seal-Hunting in Scotland.]

THE limits of our former article on the structure and habits of the seal, left us room to allude but briefly to the methods pursued in hunting this remarkable animal. We are now prepared to supply the omission, furnishing also other wood-cuts in illustration of one of the methods of hunting described.

The modes of taking this animal, in use among the Greenlanders, have been fully detailed by Crantz in his 'History of Greenland,' from which we have drawn up the account immediately following.

The seal is of far more importance to the Greenlanders than the sheep is to us, or the cocoa-nut tree to the Indian. Therefore, among the Greenlanders, a man who cannot catch seals is held in very light estem. It is the ultimate end kept in view in all the training of children. It is the only art to which they are trained



[Seal-Hunting in Scotland, Plate II.]

from infancy, and it is by the exercise of it that men maintain themselves, make themselves agreeable to others, and become useful members of the community.

The Greenlanders have three ways of taking seals; either singly with the bladder, or in company by the *clapper hunt*, or in the winter on the ice; to which peculiar methods that of shooting may now be added.

When the Greenlander, properly equipped for hunting, observes the Harp Seal, he endeavours to surprise it unawares, and approaches with the wind and sun in his back that he may not be seen or heard by it. When he comes within four, five, or six fathoms of the animal, all his implements being in previous readiness, he transfers the oar to his left hand, and taking the harpoon (to which an inflated bladder is attached by a long string) in his right, launches it with all his force against the seal. The moment the animal is pierced, the man throws the bladder, tied to the end of the string, into the water, on the same side that the seal runs and dives, which it instantly does like a dart. The seal often drags the bladder under water; but, from its size, it is so great an impediment, that the animal soon tires, and must come up again in about a quarter of an hour to take breath. The man hastens to the spot where he sees the bladder ascend, and as soon as the seal appears, throws an unbarbed lance against it. This lance always comes out of the wound it has inflicted, and the man continues to employ it until the seal is quite exhausted, when he runs a smaller lance into it, and kills it outright; but he immediately after closes the wound in order to preserve the blood. It is this mode of taking the seal which was illustrated by the cut to the previous article.

Of the several species of seal found in Greenland, only one, the Harp Seal, called by the natives *attarsoak*, which is the most stupid and careless, can be caught in this manner. Some other species, more careful or timid, are taken by several men in company, in what Crantz calls the "clapper-hunt." In this process the men cut off their retreat, and frighten them under water by clapping, shouting, and throwing stones; but as the seals must come to the surface at frequent intervals to draw breath, the men again persecute them, until at last the animals are obliged to remain so long under water, that when they do come up, they stay so long at the surface as to afford the men an easy opportunity of effecting their destruction.

The third method of killing seals (upon the ice) is mostly practised in Disko, where the bays are frozen over in the winter. Several methods of proceeding are adopted. The seals themselves sometimes make holes in the ice, at which they come to breathe. Near such a hole the Greenlander seats himself upon a stool, resting his feet on one that is lower to keep them from the cold: he thus sits watching; and when the animal comes and puts its nose to the hole, he pierces it instantly with his harpoon; and then, breaking the hole larger, he draws it out and kills it quite. Another method is for a man to lie along upon his belly on a kind of sledge near other holes from which the seals come out occasionally upon the ice to bask themselves in the sun. Near this great opening another small one is made, at which another man is stationed who holds, inserted through it, a harpoon with an unusually long shaft or pole. The man who lies upon the ice looks into the large hole until he perceives a seal under the harpoon; he then makes a signal to the other man, who instantly thrusts down the weapon with all his strength to run the animal through.

If a Greenlander happens to see a seal near its hole upon the ice, he slides along upon his belly towards it, wagging his head and imitating the grunting of a seal, so that the poor animal, concluding it to be one of its own harmless companions, allows the man to come near enough to pierce it with his long dart.

When the current wears a large opening in the ice

in spring, the Greenlanders station themselves all around it, waiting till the seals come in large droves thither to take breath, when they kill them with their harpoons. Many also are killed on the ice while they lie sleeping and snoring in the sun.

An interesting account of the habits of the seal, as observed in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, is given in the 'Fauna Orcadensis' of the Rev. George Low, minister of Birsa and Haray, from which we extract the following particulars.

Seals are very numerous in these parts, especially in the desert isles or sea-rocks that are separated from the land: there they lie in droves when the sea is low, and in season bring forth their young.

The seal swims with great rapidity, and, before a gale of wind, is full of frolic, jumping and tumbling about, sometimes throwing itself entirely out of the water, and performing many awkward gambols, at last retiring to its wonted rock or cavern, and there remaining till the storm is over. Seals seem to have much curiosity. If people are passing in boats they often come up very close, stare at them, and follow them a considerable time. If the people are speaking loud, they seem to pay much attention, and to exhibit some surprise. The church of Hoy, in Orkney, is situated near a small sandy bay, which is much frequented by these animals; and Mr. Low used to observe that when the bell rung for divine service, all the seals within hearing would swim directly for the shore, and would remain while the bells continued ringing, looking about with much appearance of wonder, but without alarm.

Numbers of seals are yearly caught upon the northern coasts, both with nets and shot, for the sake chiefly of the skins and oil. Mr. Low was credibly informed that in North Ronaldsha they were taken also for eating, and that very good hams were made from them. He had seen large numbers of seals cut up, and had no doubt that the young ones might eat tolerably well; but the flesh of the old ones is coarse-grained and black, and must be very indifferent food. We are not so much surprised as Mr. Low that the people of Ronaldsha should eat seals. He was probably aware, from Pennant, that seals formerly found a place at the tables of the great even in England, as appears from the bill of fare of the famous feast given by Archbishop Neville in the reign of Edward IV., which states that several were provided on that occasion*.

Mr. Low also informs us that in his time (he died in 1795) a ship went annually from Pomona (as we understand him) to Soliskerry, and seldom returned without 200 or 300 seals. She was manned with between thirty and forty men, who, as soon as they came up with the rock, landed,—except a few who remained on board to receive what the others killed,—and immediately surrounded the seals which were then on it. One party, armed with clubs, commenced knocking them on the head, and another employed itself in *jacking*, that is, cutting off the skin with the blubber on it, while another party put the produce on board. They continued this as long as any seals remained; and when their task was accomplished, they hastened on board and set sail, as they were in danger from the weather while they remained, as, if it blew up, it was impossible for them to get to their boats. When they returned home, the "jacks" were divided, and sold by public auction, producing five or six shillings each; and each man generally got about thirty shillings for his share, after allowing a third for the vessel, and something more than a common share for the master. When the "jacks" were sold, the blubber was cut from the skin and boiled down into oil, which sold well. The skins were fastened to the walls of the houses till dry, and were then sold to the trunk-makers and others for eight-pence or a shilling a-piece, small and great. Mr. Low adds that the local tanners dressed the seal-skin both for shoes and breeches, but they did not answer very well for the former, being soft and spongy, but, when properly managed, they did well for breeches. They were also dressed, with the hair on, for saddle-covers; and very beautiful skins are sometimes made into waistcoats.

* Leland; quoted in Pennant's 'Zoology,' vol. i., p. 172.

We recur to Pennant for further information concerning the treatment of seals in Scotland. He informs us that on the coast of Caithness there are immense caverns opening into the sea, and running some hundred yards beneath the land. These are the resort of seals in the breeding-time, where they continue till their young are old enough to go to sea, which is in about six or seven weeks. The first of these caves is near the Ord, the last near Thrumster: their entrance is so narrow as only to admit a boat, but within they are very spacious and lofty. In the month of October, or beginning of November, the seal-hunters enter the mouth of the caverns about midnight, and rowing up as far as they can, they land. Each man is provided with a bludgeon, and, when properly stationed, they light their torches and make a great noise, which brings down the seals from the further end of the cavern in a confused body, with fearful cries and shrieks. At first the men are obliged to give way, for fear of being overborne; but when the throng has passed, they kill those that straggle behind, which are chiefly the young, by striking them on the nose, where a very slight blow destroys them, though they are otherwise exceedingly tenacious of life. When the work is over, the seals are dragged to the boat, which two men had been left to guard. This process is attended with great hazard, for should the torches go out, or the wind blow from the sea while the men remain in the cave, their lives are lost*.

Those who pursue the seal rather for sport than profit, adopt another method, of which the following description has been furnished by a Correspondent, whose statements our wood-cuts, from drawings by the same gentleman, are intended to illustrate:—

"One fine October morning I accompanied a military friend in quest of the seals. We embarked in a boat from Mull. The major's body-servant carried two double-barrelled rifles, and had brought an oblong wooden box, fitted with a square piece of glass at one end, to be employed in searching below the surface of the water for any dead seals that might be lost. The boat was manned by four stout highlanders, who rowed us among certain small rocky islands with which the sea in that part is studded: numerous goats and sheep pick up a living on these barren rocks, the verdure being particularly scanty, though the short grass I was told is very nourishing. In a nook of one of these islands we put the boat, and leaving the crew with an injunction to remain perfectly still, ascended the craggy side of the land;—behind a fragment of rock the keen sportsman crouched with rifle cocked, his eye ranging over the expanse, his whole figure and expression of countenance denoting eagerness mingled with caution. There was a long silence of expectation, and the whole scene, as I lay watching the surface of the water, struck me as one of the wildest and most interesting that I ever witnessed. The sea was calm as a lake, the sun shining full upon it; lofty ridges of heather-covered hills now glowing with warm light, and then subdued by passing shadows, formed a romantic background. The shores were lined by steep cliffs and reefs of jagged rocks jutting out far into the sea, and the islands before-mentioned, on one of which I was seated, varied the scene still more with colour and picturesque forms. The seal in such a calm scene ventures from the ocean-depths to inhale

* Pennant's 'Zoology,' vol. i.

the air, and seeing no object to alarm, sports above the wave, or swims to and fro like a dog, occasionally landing on pieces of rock, and basking at his ease. Several of these singular animals soon showed their heads above the water, the sportsman waiting until they approached within shot. It is very difficult to hit them in this way, but I have seen experienced marksmen kill them from the boat at the extreme limit of a rifle's power. At one hundred yards they are frequently killed."

LOSS OF THE ROYAL GEORGE.

In May last we were enabled to furnish an account of the loss of the *Royal George*, from the statements of Mr. Ingram, one of the survivors. The Editor has lately received from him the following communication respecting the woman who was saved from destruction through his exertions, in the manner formerly described. Our readers will probably be best pleased to have the communication as we received it.

Woodford, February 17th, 1835.

Dear Sir,—I received a letter, saying that you wish to see a copy of a letter that I received from the woman that I in a measure saved from the wreck of the *Royal George* that sunk at Spithead in the year 1782, by pulling her out of one of the port-holes. You will find it copied underneath.

Dear Sir,
I remain your most obedient Servant,
JAMES INGRAM.

Wivenhoe, near Colchester, 28th August, 1834.

Sir,—I have read in the 'Penny Magazine,' published the 3rd of May last, a very interesting account of the loss of the *Royal George* at Spithead, in the year 1782; the same having been furnished through you. It is there stated that a woman was preserved, in a great measure, by your exertion, and it must be very gratifying for you to know that she is still living, and a resident in this parish. Her husband, who was on board also, was likewise saved, but he is now numbered among the dead. She is a widow, and in indigent circumstances; poor but honest: rather infirm, having passed her threescore years and ten. She has a list of the names of all those that were saved; her name is Horn. I trust you will excuse the liberty in addressing you on the subject. The poor woman was anxious I should write.

I remain, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
JOHN G. CHAMBERLAIN,
One of the Churchwardens.

Mr. James Ingram,
Woodford.

Bread Seals.—Take the crumb of newly-baked bread, moisten it with gum-water and milk, and add either vermilion (in powder) or rose-pink (in powder), to colour. The bread thus moistened ought to be worked and kneaded with the fingers for a considerable time, till it forms a consistent paste without cracking. It should be then laid in a cellar till next day. Then take pieces off and roll them into balls. Press one of these down on the waxen impression of a seal, so as to press the bread into every part of the impression; and, while the bread remains there, squeeze the upper part of it so as to fashion a handle by which to hold the bread-seal when in use. Take off the bread-seal, and trim off any superfluous edges. Let the bread-seals dry very slowly; for, if they are dried too suddenly, they are apt to crack. The more the bread has been worked in the hand, the more glossy will the seals be; and the impression from them (if this be attended to) will not present that dull appearance which impressions from bread-seals often bear.

GLOUCESTER CHEESE.

In the preparation of this cheese, the milk is, in the first instance, put into a cheese-cowl (which is a large deep tub) with two teacupsful of rennet. A ball of annatto is then dipped in the milk and rubbed on a piece of pantile, which is washed into the milk till the colour is as high as required. The quantity of annatto is regulated by the wishes of the cheesefactor, some liking more than others. Originally only a small quantity was employed, to induce the belief that the cheese was rich, and to prevent its being discovered that skimmed milk had been used. But now almost all the cheese is highly coloured; and the colour is no criterion of the goodness of the article. After an hour has elapsed, the milk is converted into curd; this is cut with a cheese-knife, which is about fourteen inches in length, and has two edges: it is cut gently at first, and then very small. It is suffered to remain ten minutes, when the milkmaid puts her arms into the cowl and draws the curd gently towards her, turning it over in the whey. She afterwards again draws it towards her to dip out the whey, which is strained through a sieve, and the small pieces of curd that are strained from it are returned to the cowl. The curd is then put into vats, in which cloths had been previously laid. The vats are placed one on another, and put in a cheese-press for ten minutes, a vessel having previously been placed underneath the press to catch the expressed whey. After this, the curd is taken out of the vats and broken small, and some hot whey is poured over it. The curd is then drawn to the side of the cowl to drain from the whey, which is ladled off and strained so that no curd may be wasted. Then the curd is again put into the vats, and they are pressed one on another; any curd that is pressed over the edges of the vats being put in the middle of the vats to make the mass as firm as possible. In an hour the vats are taken out of the press to have dry cloths, after which they remain in the press till night, when the compressed curd is taken out of the vats, turned and salted, and then replaced in the press, and there remains till morning, when it is salted, and also again the following evening. The second morning the cloths are taken off, but the cheeses are left in the vats seven or eight days, being turned night and morning. After that, they are put on the floor of the cheese-loft, (which is a large room on purpose for keeping cheese,) and turned every day for three weeks or a month. In two months the cheeses are scraped and painted. The paint is a red powder, which is strewed over the cheeses and rubbed on them with the hand. In three months, they are what is technically called "ready," and are fit for the cheesefactor.

The whey that drained from the curd, during the process of cheesemaking, is put into trendles (a sort of tub) and suffered to remain till the next day, when it is skimmed. From this whey butter is made, and the residue is given to pigs. The rennet is made by mixing salt and water till it will support an egg, and then boiling it half an hour. When it is cold, four calves' stomachs are put to a gallon of the brine, with bay leaves and slices of lemon. In six weeks it is fit for use.

For single Gloucester cheese, the vats, which are made of elm, are thirteen inches in diameter, and about two inches and a-half in depth: for double Gloucester cheese, the same diameter, and twice, or more than twice the depth. All the dairy-utensils, after being used, are washed with tepid water, and then scalded. In making the double Gloucester cheese, and those that are called "truckles," the same method is pursued, except that more care is used in pressing the curd into the vats, which, for such cheeses, have three perforations to let the whey drain off; and bandages of cheese-cloth are put round when the curd is above the vat. Sage-cheese is made by pounding sage and straining

the juice into a pail of milk, to which rennet is then added. The same process is observed as for other cheese till the time when the warm whey should be poured upon it, when it is broken up with as much of the simple curd as the milkmaid considers necessary, and treated as other cheese. To make the richest cream-cheeses, the thickest cream must be taken, and put, with a little salt, into a straining-cloth, which is hung up twelve hours in order that the whey may drop from it. When it is taken from the cloth, it is put between two pewter-plates, with a weight on the upper one, and turned daily during five or six days. These cheeses can only be made in this manner in warm weather. The milk that the cows give when they are first turned into the fields in the spring, and when they are afterwards pastured in fields that have been newly mown, yields nearly as much curd again as at any other period; and it is also much richer. The principal season for making the thin cheese is from April to November; and that for making the thick, May, June, and the beginning of July.

In different districts, the produce of cows differs very much; but, in the Vale of Gloucester, from 3½ cwt. to 4½ cwt. per cow is considered a fair annual average return. The same cow, on different pastures, will yield milk of very different qualities; from one will be made rank and unpleasant cheese, while the other will be fine and rich. An estimate of the profit and expenses of a farm for twenty cows can be, from the continual variation in the state of the times and local circumstances, of course only an approximation towards the truth. But the following, made in the Vale of Gloucester in 1835, where the land is rich and excellent, is as accurate an annual average statement as the nature of the subject will admit:—

	£.	s.	d.
Rent of 40 acres, at 50*s.*, for pasture	100	0	0
——— 20 acres for hay	50	0	0
——— 2 acres of arable, for potatoes	5	0	0
Making hay, 12*s.* an acre	12	0	0
Carrying and ricking	2	10	0
Expenses of raising potatoes and seed	15	9	0
Tithes, 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound	27	2	6
Poor and other rates, 3*s.* 9*d.* in the pound	29	2	11
Dairymaid, 7*l.* a-year (besides board)	7	0	0
———man, at 7*l.* a-year (besides board)	7	0	0
Wear and tear of dairy-utensils	0	10	0
Salt	0	10	0
Annatto 4*s.* a-pound	1	0	0
Rennet and paint	1	4	0
Interest of money laid out in stock and implements, reckoning each cow at from 8*l.* to 10*l.*, and chance of loss	20	0	0
Profit	87	11	7
	£366	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Cheese, 4 tons, at 4 cwt. each cow, and at 44*s.* per cwt.	176	0	0
Value of whey	20	0	0
Pasture of colts and sheep	20	0	0
Profit of calves	30	0	0
Butter	90	0	0
Pigs	5	0	0
Potatoes	25	0	0
	£366	0	0

The capital necessary for the purchase of stock for such a farm would, according to present prices, be about 300*l.*; but as it is not prudent that the whole of the capital should be expended, a man who had only that sum should take a smaller farm, and reserve a part for the payment of work-people, and other incidental expenses which would be required before much profit was derived from the farm. From the depressed state of agriculture, the present time is not by any means auspicious for the commencement of business as a dairy-farmer. The requisite dairy-utensils will cost about 25*l.*

Wild-Dogs in Van Diemen's Land.—The annoyance and danger occasioned by the wild-dogs in Van Diemen's Land is still a subject of great complaint in the papers of that colony; and the most active exertions hitherto used seem to have had little effect in abating the nuisance. The dogs appear rather to increase in number and boldness. A case is mentioned in which a person named Akerly was assaulted by thirteen of these animals, and would probably have been killed if he had not contrived to get up into a tree. The means hitherto employed to eradicate them do not seem to have been commensurate with the growth of the evil. A society has been established at Gaddesden, near Campbell Town, to effect their destruction; and the house of the chairman exhibits a collection of skins, to the number of a hundred, of dogs that have been killed, of almost all kinds, from the shepherd-dog to the Newfoundland. It is thought that unless the most decided measures are taken, it will be impossible to pasture sheep in the colony. The dogs bring forth six or eight young at a litter, and commence breeding at one year old, while the sheep brings forth only one, and does not commence breeding until two years of age. The ultimate and discouraging prospect which this opens is brought nearer by the daily defection of the domestic dogs of the colony to the wild ones. "At the remote stock-huts," says a recent paper, "a free man keeps as many dogs as he pleases; frequently six or eight are kept; these dogs provide for themselves, and continually make off to the wild packs. All remonstrance is received with a smile of contempt, and returned by insult; and until such people are strictly prohibited from keeping dogs in the pastoral districts under heavy penalties, matters are not likely to mend: indeed it is to be feared that the evil is fixed for ever—that it has been too long neglected, and is now past remedy." We are too well assured of the resources and power of civilized men to partake of these apprehensions; but any delay now in organising a plan of simultaneous operation against the dogs, is likely to render their future extirpation a matter of great and increasing difficulty and expense. Meanwhile, at this distance from the spot, it is interesting to watch the various aspects in which this remarkable state of things appears, and to observe the different measures which it may be necessary to adopt against the canine depredators. Since writing the above we find that an "Act of Council" has been issued for the purpose of restraining the increase of dogs. All dogs are to be registered; and none are to be left at large except in Hobart Town and Launceston. Unregistered dogs, or dogs found at large contrary to this order, are to be killed. The persons killing them are to be paid from 5*s.* to 40*s.* for each, out of a fund formed by the registration fees. The registration fee for a watch-dog kept chained, or a sheep dog, is 2*s.* 6*d.*; all other dogs 10*s.*, or if females double the respective amounts. The local newspapers are not very sanguine in expectations of good from this measure.

On the Hatching of Poultry.—In the hatching of poultry, as in most other things, Nature is the best guide. The hen and duck, if left to themselves, find some dry, warm, sandy hedge or bank, in which to deposit their eggs, forming their nests of leaves, moss, or dry grass. In this way the warmth is retained when the bird quits the nest for the moments she devotes to her scanty and hurried meal. The good housewife's mode is the reverse of this. She makes a nest, or box, of stone, brick, or wood, and fills it with clean long straw. By these means, less heat is generated by the hen, and that which is produced quickly escapes in her occasional absences;—the eggs are chilled and addled, and frequent failures ensue in the expected brood. To obviate this, the best mode is to put at the bottom and sides of the boxes of the henhouse, a sufficient quantity of fine, dry sand, or of coal or wood ashes, lining them with a little well-broken dry grass, or untwisted haybands, or moss, or bruised straw. Wood-ashes have been found to be the best, as they produce the effect of destroying the fleas by which poultry are so much infested; and that this will not be disagreeable to them is evident from the propensity which they have to roll in heaps of dust, or of ashes of any kind. An experienced rearer of poultry adopted the method above described during a long course of years, and scarcely ever met with a disappointment. As this is the season for the incubation of every species of domestic poultry, we have thought the above might be acceptable to many classes of our readers.

Printed by William Clowes, Duke Street, Lambeth.